

Idaho LGBTQ Oral History Project

Kevin Kelpé



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

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This Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Oral History Project began as a key component of a cross-listed Boise State University course, Intro to LGBTQ Studies (GEN 380, HIS 381, SOC 497). Dr. Riley Caldwell-O'Keefe taught the course and designed the project as an interactive learning tool to help students understand LGBTQ history, with special emphasis on Idaho history, and the impacts of this history on local individuals. In addition to this history and context, students learned interviewing techniques throughout the semester. We discussed ethical considerations and obtained Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for the project. Throughout the process, we worked with Boise State Special Collections and Archives librarians, Alan Virta and Cheryl Oestreicher. The culmination and digital release of the collection would have been impossible without them. We are thrilled and honored to offer these first-person insights which help provide a more well-rounded and comprehensive story of Idaho history.

Name: Kevin Daniel Kelpé

Biography: Kevin Kelpé, aged 30 was raised in Los Angeles to young parents. His childhood was filled with uncertainties about food and shelter, so he joined a religious youth group to compensate for his lack of family ties. After high school, Kelpé went to Florida to attend film school and work for Disney as a dancer. Kelpé moved to Boise in 2003 and became immersed in the restaurant industry. Kelpé identifies more as an epicurean than solely as a gay man, but at the same time, does not disidentify as gay. At the time of this interview, Kelpé was owner of the Red Feather Lounge in Boise. Kelpé is not an active participant in the LGBT community, but would advocate for equal marriage rights.

Keywords: Restaurateur, Disney teen parents, Sex Ed, "Pray the Gay Away," Love vs. Virginia, Conversion Therapies, Don't Ask/Don't Tell, "It Does Get Better" campaign, HIV/AIDS/STDs, condoms

Interview date: November 21, 2011

Interviewer: Tiffany Barbour

Interview duration: 1:07:09

City: Boise

Timed Notation:

0:00:00	Introduction
0:00:15	Name
0:00:24	Identify
0:00:34	Background, L.A. Family
0:01:24	Coming to Boise
0:02:04	Being out/religion
0:03:10	More family background
0:06:00	Sex/coming out moving to Florida

0:11:30	Boise gay community
0:13:10	Restaurant community
0:14:57	Family/survival
0:19:19	Kids being raised thinking “queer” is bad
0:20:00	Choices
0:21:15	Partner/marriage/kids/government
0:27:00	Coming out stories/his boyfriend
0:29:20	Sex education/religion
0:32:30	Pray the gay away/teen suicide
0:34:20	Politics
0:39:00	Difference with him and his boyfriend
0:43:00	Relationships
0:47:00	Bisexual
0:49:00	Advice to teens
0:53:30	Social groups and funding
0:55:00	Gay bars in Boise
0:59:00	Dating in Boise
1:00:00	Sex
1:02:00	STDs/HIV/AIDS
1:06:00	Thank you and goodbye